(b) Loans from Nationalised Banks at nominal rates of interest under Differential Rate of Interest Scheme;

(c) Allotment of public telephone booths;

(d) Reservation in distribution of petrol pumps, kerosene depots etc.

(7) Scheme of Assistance to disabled for purchase of fitting of Aids/Appliances

The main objective of the scheme is to assist needy physically handicapped persons in procuring durable, sophisticated and scientifically manufactured aids and appliances that promote their phsyical, social psychological rehabilitation. The scheme is implemented through centres run by the Companies, registered under Companies Act, registered societies, Trusts or any other institutions recognised by the Ministry of Welfare. Both governmental and non-governmental agencies are thus engaged for the implementation of the scheme.

Under the scheme, aids and appliances upto value of Rs. 3600/- are distributed to the disabled persons free of cost if their monthly income is upto Rs. 1200/- and at 50 percent of the cost if the income is between Rs. 1201 and Rs. 2500/-.

Finance corporation to help handicapped people

8498. SHRI YERRA NARAYNASWAMY: Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to set up a finance corporation to help handicapped people in the country;

(b) whether a large number of handicapped people are anxious to better their living standards;

(c) the manner in which Government propose to assist such people to start their own self employment projects; and

(d) the steps proposed to establish a Finance Corporation exclusively for handicapped people?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI SITARAM KESRI): (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. Details are being worked out.

(d) Yes, Sir.

World bank assistance for welfare programmes

8499. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of WELFRE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news item captioned "World Bank to fund welfare programmes" as reported in 'The Statesman' dated 24.4 95;

(b) if so, the details of welfare programmes launched/propose to be launched by Government for which World Bank has agreed to give assistance;

(c) the total assistance World Bank has agreed to give;

(d) whether Government also propose to share in these welfare programmes; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI SITARAM KESRI): (a) and (b) Yes Sir. The proposed Ecodevelopment Project is likely to be implemented in 7 Wild life protection areas of India including 6 Project Tiger Reserves. This proposal aims to improve management of these project areas, involve local people in the Ecodevelopment to improve their living standards, and to develop research and build up institutions.